

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02300 281325Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----065661 281326Z /45

O R 281154Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8752
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PINS RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS

REF: STATE 164007

1. EMBASSY FEELS U.S. SHOULD MAKE CLEAR AND PUBLIC OUR POSITION ON THE SENSELESS KILLING OF UNARMED CIVILIANS, WHETHER CARRIED OUT BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES, PF GUERRILLAS, OR OTHERS. SUCH BRUTALITIES SHOULD BE CONDEMNED UNEQUIVOCALLY AND PUBLICLY, AND U.S. STATEMENTS EXPRESSING THAT CONDEMNATION SHOULD BE PROMPTLY GIVEN TO FRONTLINE GOVERNMENTS, THE RHODESIANS AND PF REPRESENTATIVES. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON WAY OR THE OTHER, THEY SHOULD AT LEAST BE BROUGHT TO THE DIRECT ATTENTION OF THOSE CONCERNED.

2. AS AN EXAMPLE OF ZAMBIAN REACTION TO THE TWO MOST RECENT INCIDENTS, THE FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN THE PARTY-OWNED SUNDAY
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TIMES OF JUNE 25 IS WORTH NOTING. THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT IN ANY WAR CIVILIANS SUFFER MORE THAN THE SOLDIERS. REGARDING THE KILLINGS IN UMTALI AND MOZAMBIQUE THE PAPER COMMENTS, "INNOCENT LIVES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WITH NEEDLESS BRUTALITY IN OPERATIONS THAT WILL NEITHER ADVANCE NOR RETARD THE DAY OF ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE BY ONE DAY." IN CONDEMNING WHAT IT CALLS SMITH'S ATTACK IN MOZAMBIQUE, THE TIMES ALSO STATES,

"BUT WITH EQUAL DISGUST THE WORLD MUST CONDEMN THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS FOR THE MINDLESS SLAUGHTER OF MISSIONARIES AND A
CHILD." ALTHOUGH IMPLYING THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SELOUS SCOUTS
WHICH DID THE KILLING, THE PAPER NEVERTHELESS SAYS THAT IF IT
WAS DONE BY PF GUERRILLAS, THE PF SHOULD COURT MARTIAL THEM FOR
"COLD-BLOODED MURDER."
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
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